This report was prepared by the USD-SOLES Office of Accreditation & Assessment on December 2, 2019.
Report: Exit Survey – 2019
Program: PhD in Leadership Studies
Institution: University of San Diego – School of Leadership and Education Sciences

Executive Summary

Exit Survey Overview

The School of Leadership and Education Sciences (SOLES) - Office of Assessment and Accreditation administers the Exit Survey to graduating students at the University of San Diego (USD) annually. The Exit Survey affords students the opportunity to reflect on their program experiences and to provide valuable feedback utilized for program review. This report is specific to the results for the Leadership Studies, PhD Program in 2019, with 2018 and 2017 data provided for comparison purposes.

Rating Scale

Five different five-point rating scales were used in this survey. The goal is to have response ratings in the four to five range for each item.

- Strongly Agree (5), Agree (4), Neutral (3), Disagree (2), Strongly Disagree (1)
- Extremely Well (5), Well (4), Moderately (3), Poorly (2), Not At All (1)
- Very Useful (5), Useful (4), Neutral (3), Useless (2), Very Useless (1)
- Well Articulated (5), Articulated (4), Fairly Articulated (3), Poorly Articulated (2), Not Articulated (1)
- Very Satisfied (5), Satisfied (4), Neutral (3), Dissatisfied (2), Very Dissatisfied (1)

Response Rate

Table 1 shows the percent of USD-Leadership Studies, PhD graduating students who responded to the Exit Survey for the last three years. The three year trend (2017-2019) in response rates are 39%, 44%, and 67% respectively.

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Completion Year</th>
<th>Number of Leadership Studies, PhD Graduates*</th>
<th>Number of Leadership Studies, PhD Respondents</th>
<th>Exit Survey Response Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Refers to the number of graduates for which correct email addresses were obtained.
Summary of Findings

Graduating students were asked to rate aspects of the Leadership Studies, PhD Program in twelve areas. The 2019 Cronbach’s alpha values were as follows: faculty (.96); advisors (.94); intellectual climate (.91); program support and communication (.91); university support (NA); enhanced knowledge and skills (.95); preparation of skills (.90); usefulness of required research courses (.79); enhanced ability to think critically (.42); advanced research courses (NA); dissertation (.52); and the overall program (.77), suggesting a range from relatively low, moderate and high internal consistency of survey item responses. (Note that a reliability coefficient of .70 or higher is considered “acceptable” in most social science research situations.)

One of the thirteen 2019 mean ratings were in the desired four to five range (using a 5 point scale). Figure 1 shows the comparison of 2019 means, with 2018 and 2017 means. These ratings indicate moderate levels of student satisfaction with the Leadership Studies, PhD Program at the University of San Diego.

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